

## Message Text

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44

ACTION MED-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 HEW-02 AID-05 /023 W

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P 261535Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2337

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 0765

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMED, GR

SUBJECT: HEART SURGERY FOR GREEK CHILD

REF: (A) COLLINS/KIRBY TELCON OF JANUARY 9, 1976, (B) STATE 03749,

MED FOR DR. HENDERSON

1. AS NOTED IN REF A, THE PRESIDENT OF A LOCAL LABOR UNION (UNION OF HEAVY MACHINE OPERATORS) ASKED FOR THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF A CHILD OF ONE OF HIS MEMBERS. THE CHILD, A FOUR-YEAR-OLD BOY NAMED PETER VOURLIS, IS SUFFERING FROM A HEART CONDITION WHICH THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN BELIEVES SHOULD BE CORRECTED BY SURGERY AT AN "ORGANIZED MEDICAL CENTER ABROAD" WHERE GREATER EXPERTISE EXISTS.

2. UPON RECEIPT OF REF B, EMBOFF REQUESTED THE UNION PRESIDENT AND THE BOY'S FATHER TO SECURE FROM THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN THE RELEVANT MEDICAL RECORDS FOR SUBMISSION TO NIH THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S MEDICAL DIVISION. THE PHYSICIAN SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED HE WOULD ONLY RELEASE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION AFTER HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH THE EMBOFF. EMBOFF PHONED HIM JANUARY 23 FOLLOWING WHICH THE PHYSICIAN (DR. JOHN NIGOYANNOPOULOS) SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT THE RELEVANT INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO DR. STEPHEN E. EPSTEIN OF THE CARDIOLOGY BRANCH OF NIH. THE PHYSICIAN INSISTED ON THE DIRECT TRANSMITTAL OF HIS REPORT TO NIH

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EXPLAINING THAT HE WAS DEALT WITH DR. EPSTEIN MANY

TIMES IN THE PAST ON SIMILAR CASES AND THAT HE KNOWS  
EPSTEIN VERY WELL.

3. AT THE EMBOFF'S REQUEST DR. MIHOYANNOPOULOS MADE  
A COPY OF HIS REPORT TO DR. EPSTEIN (IN THE FORM OF A  
LETTER DATED JANUARY 24) AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY.  
WE ARE FORWARDING A COPY TO THE MEDICAL DIVISION  
(ATTENTION DR. HENDERSON) UNDER SEPARATE COVER. MEAN-  
WHILE THE MEDICAL DIVISION MAY WISH TO CONTACT  
DR. EPSTEIN. THE EMBOFF STRESSED TO THE PHYSICIAN,  
AS WELL AS THE LABOR UNION PRESIDENT AND THE BOY'S  
FAMILY, THAT WHILE THE CASE IS BEING CONSIDERED  
SYMPATHETICALLY WE ARE, OF COURSE, IN NO POSITION TO  
MAKE ANY PROMISES CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF  
ARRANGING AN OPERATION IN THE U.S. FOR THE BOY.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER ADVICE AS THE  
SITUATION DEVELOPS.  
KUBISCH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ATHENS00765  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760029-0334  
**From:** ATHENS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION MED  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 3749  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by woolfhd>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HEART SURGERY FOR GREEK CHILD  
**TAGS:** AMED, GR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006